

NEWSLETTER

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

APRIL 1988

Vol. 3 No. 4

Svend draws crowd

What a great day for the ANE Society! The new offices at 10704 - 108 Street were officially opened by Burnaby M.P. Svend Robinson, with nearly 200 people attending the afternoon opening. Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Dr. Larry Jewell, told the crowd that their presence indicated the broad community support for the NETWORK. He commended everyone for their concern about AIDS in our community and he stressed the need for various communities to continue to work together.

Before cutting the ribbon Svend Robinson praised the AIDS NETWORK and the new facility, calling it the most impressive agency in Canada. He commended and encouraged the Board, staff and volunteers for their work.

Robinson, has been advocating the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights. He pointed out that some individuals are fearful of seeking assistance from the AIDS NETWORK "because we are still living in a province which says it's okay to fire someone from his or her job, to throw them out of their home if they happen to be gay or lesbian." He called upon the provincial government to amend the Individual Rights Protection Act, to recognize the fundamental right to equality, to dignity, to respect of the gay and lesbian community in this province.

The opening was attended by representatives of many agencies, government departments and individuals, including members of the gay community.

NEW BROCHURES

AIDS FACT SHEETS

Six fact sheets addressing AIDS issues are now available. The sheets were produced originally in Ontario but through the cooperative efforts of the Edmonton Board of Health and the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society they have been updated and revised to include Alberta information.

The fact sheets contain information on six different topics: "AIDS Information for Parents and Teachers", "AIDS and Health Care Workers", "AIDS and the Workplace", "Women and AIDS", "Detecting AIDS", and "Information about AIDS".

The NETWORK has distributed about 75,000 of the Ontario fact sheets during the past year, and we anticipate that the demand will continue. These fact sheets have been the most appropriate for general audiences. They are available free of charge at the NETWORK office and through the Board of Health.



AIDS AWARENESS WEEK -- A SUCCESS!

All of the activities organized by the NETWORK for AIDS Awareness Week were successful in terms of raising awareness of AIDS and the NETWORK's services.

The various public seminars and educational events were well publicized and well attended, and presenters and facilitators Gillian Piper, Matt Kuefler, Robert Veenkamp all did a terrific job.

The NETWORK offered a small display of AIDS information to all of the night clubs in town (from Goose Loonies to the Fantasyland nightclub). Unfortunately, none of the non-gay night clubs took us up on the offer, but Flashback, the Roost, Boots n Saddles, Lamborghinee's all requested and received AIDS information and condoms.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT/MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society began with the annual report by Dr. L. Jewell, Chairperson of the Board.

The report contains opening statements of both the Chairperson and Executive Director, Barry Breau. Each noted the increased scope of the NETWORK's activities. Dr. Jewell also made note of the outstanding degree of cooperation with official (government) and professional bodies, as well as the precedent setting production of information pamphlets in a variety of languages for the immigrant communities. Addressing the successes and difficulties in client support issues, he acknowledged that "we perhaps underestimate the complexity of the issues and the difficulty in maintaining contact with the wide variety of agencies and individuals not concerned with AIDS. Client support service represents our first priority for the coming year," he wrote.

And we raised more than awareness! Almost 200 people attended the Phoenix - sponsored Condomadness. An evening of entertainment for "uptown gals and downtown guys", with safer sex demonstrations and guest appearances by Dr. Ruth and Oprah Winfrey, Condomadness raised both awareness and over \$1200 in ticket sales. Everyone who attended had a lot of fun learning about safer sex practises.

The popular "AIDS, What Do I Know?" poster is still available in limited quantities. Please contact the NETWORK office.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICE MANAGER

In this challenging position you will be responsible for the financial, budgeting, administrative and electronic information systems of the NETWORK.

Proven supervisory and administrative skills required in addition to good knowledge of computer systems and data base management. QUALIFICATIONS:

An equivalent combination of education and related experience will be considered. Salary range up to \$27,000. Submit resume to the Executive Director, AIDS NETWORK office by 5 p.m. Friday, May 6th, 1988.

The Executive Director commended the ongoing dedication, commitment, and support the staff and volunteers have received from the Board, health care, and medical professionals.

Mr. Breau wrote that the volunteers, including those trained at the NETWORK, the Board of Directors, Committee members, and many health care professionals have provided 5,000 hours of service during 1987. "They have provided the base from which we are able to build ... one NETWORK...", he wrote. The Executive Director also noted the difficulty in again securing new office space due to the fear of AIDS in the community.

The Annual General Report is available free of charge from the AIDS NETWORK office.

DONATING BLOOD

When researchers and scientists first realized that AIDS was a blood-borne syndrome, blood donation agencies such as the Canadian Red Cross took steps to preserve the safety of the blood supply. When the AIDS virus --HIV was discovered, a test for its presence became a necessity. Tests which detect HIV antibodies were developed, and since October 1985, all blood donated to the Red Cross is tested for AIDS and other blood borne diseases.

However, the test used may not identify people who have been very recently infected with the virus. It may take as little as two weeks, or as much as three months for the body to react to the HIV infection and produce antibodies. For this reason, the Red Cross asks people who have participated in risky activities not to donate blood as a further precaution.

WHO MUST NOT DONATE BLOOD

The Red Cross has issued a brochure which all donors are asked to read each time they give blood. The brochure outlines who must not donate blood as:

- men or women who have tested positive to the AIDS antibody
- men or women who have shared a needle to take drugs
- any man who has had sex with another man since 1977
- men and women who have had sex with someone, other than their usual partner, from places where AIDS is common such as Central Africa, Caribbean, major North American cities.
- men or women have regularly received blood products
- men or women who have had sex with partners in any of the above groups or with partners whom they do not know, including prostitutes

The same people who must not give blood cannot donate organs. If you are in the above categories, check your driver's license to see if you have signed the organ donor card. If you have, you must destroy that portion.

DO NOT GO TO THE RED CROSS FOR TESTING

At this time, anyone in the present risk categories who has been tested for HIV and is presently HIV negative, is asked not to donate blood. You can assist the Red Cross in other ways if you wish, by donating time or funds to their work.

DO NOT GO TO THE RED CROSS FOR AN AIDS TEST! You may have been recently exposed to the AIDS virus and your body may not yet have developed enough antibodies to be caught by the test. Because of the "window" -- the time it takes for you to produce antibodies to the AIDS virus -- you could be endangering the lives of others if you donate your blood for this purpose.

Your doctor or the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic - 427-2830 or 1-800-772-AIDS, can arrange for you to have an AIDS test in a confidential manner. The test is available to anyone who wishes, and you will receive counselling to assist you with the implications of the test results.

The Red Cross Pamphlet "AIDS: New Information for all Blood Donors" is available free from the Canadian Red Cross at 431-0202, or from the NETWORK office at 424-4767. The AIDS NETWORK also has a pamphlet entitled "A Test for AIDS?" which explains the testing process. It is also available free of charge.



Dinning receives award

The Minister of Community & Occupational Health, Mr. Jim Dinning received the First Annual Community Leadership Award from the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society. Board Chairperson, Dr. Larry Jewell presented the award at the Society's Annual General Meeting on March 23, 1988. A sculpture by artist Brian Clark was presented to the Minister and a plaque is up in the boardroom at the NETWORK office. The Minister was cited for his efforts within the government to push for AIDS awareness and prevention.

Mr. Dinning's Department of Community & Occupational Health has recently released two reports with recommendations; a three year plan entitled "Education and Caring: Alberta's Program for AIDS" and a survey of teenagers and adults.

SUPPORT FOR YOU

As part of our effort to provide service to those directly or indirectly affected by HIV and AIDS, the Support Groups continue to offer the safe environment where individuals can express their concerns and anxiety, learn how to cope, gain information, discuss issues, find support in grief and learn how to live positively.

The Family, Friends and Partners group addresses the needs of those who care for and support a person with AIDS as well as those who have lost someone to AIDS. The group environment provides a forum for lovers, parents, siblings, children and spouses to express concerns, deal with feelings and issues of caring and grieving for a PWA.

As always these services are provided in confidence and free.

TO CASEY - FROM JACOB

INSIDE
TIME CRAWLS SLOWLY BY,
DISTINGUISHED ONLY
BY THE STEADY TICKING, CLICKING
OF ITS TOENAILS
ON THE MARBLE OF YOUR MIND ..
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE
AND ALL OF IT BORROWED,
NO ACCOUNTING POSSIBLE
FOR HOW MUCH IS LOST,
YET THE ONLY WASTE
IS IN THE WORRY.
I DO WHAT I CAN,
AND FOR WHAT IS PAST
I MUST CONTENT WITH THE MEMORY
OF LIVING FULLY, VIBRANTLY.
GREATER STILL,
I REALIZE THAT ALL
OF THIS TIME WAS SPENT
A LOAN.
I WATCH MYSELF BECOMING
MORE ESSENTIALLY
WHO I WOULD WISH COULD REMAIN.
I CANNOT BE AN EXAMPLE
BUT I CAN BE A MIRROR
POLISHED BY SLOW EROSION
TO A CLARITY THAT REFLECTS
HOPE AND PAIN/ YOURS AND MINE.
CAUTIOUSLY CLEARING THE INNER
PATHWAY CLAIMING THE CONTINUUM
I FIND THERE BECOMING MORE AND
MORE A VERB....
A PROCESS.
PILGRIM AND EXPLORER
TRANSCENDING THE BIG PICTURE
BY STEPPING OUTSIDE THE FRAME.
I CAN ONLY CALL BACK TO YOU
OVER MY SHOULDER
TO REASSURE YOU THAT
THERE'S LIGHT AHEAD....
THAT IT'S WHERE WE ALL CAME FROM
AND MUST RETURN
WHEN WE CAN LOVE OURSELVES
ENOUGH.

G. Jason Keeve
1986

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15 - 18

MAY

National AIDS Conference in Toronto, jointly sponsored by the Canadian AIDS Society, Canadian Public Health Association, and Health and Welfare Canada. Contact the NETWORK for registration information.

JUNE

June 20 - 27 is GALA Week. An events poster will be available in early June. For more information call 424-8361 between 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Thank You!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The recent AIDS Awareness Week activities sponsored by the NETWORK would not have been possible without a lot of hard work from staff and volunteers. In particular, thank you's to William, Dave Jackson, Linda Findley and Phillip Knight. Special thanks to Pay Ryley for his tremendous work, including coordinating the entertainment for Condomadness, and M.C'ing the event.

Michael Phair deserves special thanks for spearheading yet another successful activity.

Thanks to the staff, board and volunteers for assistance with the Office Opening and Annual General Meeting - two events which, on top of AIDS Week activities, kept the NETWORK busy in March.

"Guys in Disguise" and Flashback -- \$122 was raised during an AIDS Awareness Week event.

Phoenix Theatre staff and volunteers for sponsoring Condomadness. Over \$800. was raised for the NETWORK.

Lamborghini's March Cut-A-Thon raised \$100.00

THANK YOU!

During the recent Volunteer Recognition Week we telephoned in the accumulated number of volunteer hours and individuals who gave of their time over the previous week. 146 volunteers gave approximately 512 hours of volunteer time to the various programs and special activities held by the NETWORK. Volunteers DO make a difference!

Minh Pharmacy, Joe Doz, Michael Phair, George & Nathan for the beautiful floral arrangements.

HOLIDAY PLANS?

Please notify Brigitte when you will be taking holidays during the summer months so that we can plan coverage for your shifts.

VOLUNTEERS...
THE HEART OF IT ALL!

BUDDY SUPPORT MEETING

The May Buddy Support Meeting will be on May 25th at 5:30 p.m., at the AIDS NETWORK office. Susan Smythe, Infection Control Nurse at the Charles Camshell Hospital will be available to respond to concerns volunteers providing emotional and practical support may have.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We add our congratulations to Liz Weber for having received recognition for her many volunteer activities by being awarded The Alberta Achievement Award in Calgary on April 30th. Congratulations Liz!

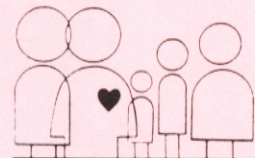
TOUCHING BASE EVENING

The regular touching base evening for May is scheduled for May 17 at 7 p.m. at the NETWORK office. This is an evening planned by volunteers to get together to socialize and keep in touch with one another.

VOLUNTEER INSERVICE MEETING

The regular volunteer inservice meeting for May will be on May 4th, at 7 p.m. at the NETWORK office. Three health care professionals including Dr. Helen Hays, Director of the Palliative Care Unit at the Edmonton General Hospital, Dr. Geoff Taylor, Infectious Disease Specialist at the University of Alberta Hospital, and Mrs. Ruth Guse, Palliative Home Care Program of the Edmonton Board of Health will speak on Palliative Care: What it can offer persons with AIDS.

The June Volunteer Inservice Meeting will be on June 8th at 7 p.m., Susan Smythe, Infection Control Nurse at the Charles Camshell Hospital will speak about Infection Control Issues when supporting a PWA.

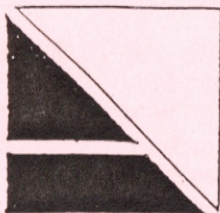


AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

Office Address:

10704 - 108 Street
Second Floor
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 3A3

Telephone Number:
Info Line: 429-AIDS
Business Line: 424-4767



Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
INFORMATION LINE HOURS
Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday - 12 Noon - 4 p.m.

The Newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society with financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA. The AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a registered non-profit charitable organization (Reg. # 0747212-11-25).

ROSS ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL FUND

As of December, 1987, the Fund had accumulated \$6,080.14, and made awards totalling \$3,538.83. From 01, January, 1988 to date (25 April, 1988) activity in this account was as follows:

Opening Balance	\$ 2,551.32
Donations	690.00
Memberships	1,670.00
Interest	31.62
SUBTOTAL	\$ 4,942.94
Awards	569.75
BALANCE	\$ 4,373.19



CANADIAN
AIDS
SOCIETY



LA SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DU SIDA

THE AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton Society is a member of the CANADIAN AIDS SOCIETY/LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU SIDA

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a registered non-profit charitable organization. The mandate of the AIDS NETWORK is to provide education about AIDS to the high-risk groups and the general public, support to individuals with AIDS and ARC and co-ordination of services for individuals with AIDS/ARC.

INFORMATIONAL: An informational and support line operates Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. A leading resource library is available to agencies and the public.

EDUCATIONAL: A speakers' bureau provides speakers for Educational presentations to concerned groups. Audiovisual materials and information files are available on loan. COUNSELLING: Confidential one-on-one counselling services are available to persons directly or indirectly concerned about AIDS. Referrals to other professional services are made upon request.

SUPPORT GROUPS: For persons who have tested positive for HIV Antibodies. For persons with AIDS. Friends, families, and partners of persons with AIDS.

ADVOCACY: Assistance will be provided to individuals facing difficulties in receiving services because of their health status.

The AIDS NETWORK works to coordinate the services of supportive public and private agencies in all areas involved by the AIDS crisis.

The services of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society are provided FREE and on a CONFIDENTIAL bases.

THIS PAMPHLET WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING FROM THE WILD ROSE FOUNDATION, AN ALBERTA GOVERNMENT FOUNDATION.